

1.941  
S8A98  
NORTH CAROLINA  
Aug. 2

NORTH CAROLINA



COOPERATIVE CROP REPORTING SERVICE

QUESTIONS PERTINENT TO THIS ISSUE

1. WHO IS THE NEW COMMISSIONER OF AGRICULTURE?
2. WHY DID NORTH CAROLINA'S CASH FARM RECEIPTS DECREASE IN 1947?
3. HOW MUCH MILK WAS PRODUCED ON N. C.'S. FARMS DURING FEBRUARY?
4. THE INDEXES IN PRICES RECEIVED IS UP OR DOWN?
5. HOW MANY SHEEP WERE SHORN IN THE STATE LAST YEAR?
6. NORTH CAROLINA'S LIVESTOCK NUMBERS ARE UP OR DOWN?
7. WHAT WAS THE TOTAL SNOWFALL IN RALEIGH LAST MONTH?
8. THE STATE'S WATERMELON CROP IS LIKELY TO BE LARGER OR SMALLER?
9. FEED PRICES CONTINUE TO INCREASE OR DECREASE?
10. THERE WERE FEWER OR MORE LAYERS ON FARMS LAST MONTH?

No 13

Raleigh, N. C.

March 15, 1948

## MARCH 1, 1948 GENERAL FARM REPORT

### FARM CASH RECEIPTS DECLINE IN 1947

The decline of cash receipts from the sale of farm products in North Carolina during 1947 was the first decrease registered since 1940. A preliminary estimate indicates that money received by farmers from the sale of all commodities, including livestock and livestock products, amounted to \$743,951,000. This is one percent or 9 million dollars less than farm cash receipts in 1946.

The sharp drop in tobacco prices during the 1947 season was partially offset by increased prices of grains, livestock and livestock products. Cash receipts from the sale of livestock and livestock products amounted to \$142,655,000, or an increase of 19 percent over 1946. Cash receipts from crop sales amounted to \$601,296,000 or a decrease of 5 percent below 1946. Cash receipts from tobacco sales accounted for almost all of the decrease.

Receipts from the sale of all farm products during December 1947 amounted to \$66,616,000 or almost 56 percent more than in December 1946. Crop receipts in December were almost double those during the corresponding month of the previous year.

Cash receipts for all farmers in the United States amounted to about 4.5 billion dollars during the first two months of 1948, 10 percent more than in the same two months of 1947. Most of this increase was attributed to the sale of livestock and livestock products.

### MILK PRODUCTION SEASONALLY DOWN

Total milk production on North Carolina farms was 102 million pounds during February 1948. This compares with 106 million pounds produced in January. The decrease in milk production in February was attributed largely to the seasonally lower average production of milk per cow. Production of milk per cow averaged 286 pounds during February as compared with 297 pounds during January. The average number of total cows in herds was 358,000 in February, the same number as reported for January.

Weather conditions during February were generally unfavorable tending to pull milk production down to a lower level than a year ago.

### W. KERR SCOTT RESIGNS

Mr. W. Kerr Scott recently resigned as Commissioner of Agriculture to become a candidate for Governor. He is succeeded by Mr. D. S. Coltrane who was assistant Commissioner. Based on the past eleven years' cooperative relations we are grateful for Mr. Scott's progressive support and program. It's continuation by Commissioner Coltrane assures future progress and services to North Carolina farmers as Mr. Scott once stated: "Statistics are essential to all program farming".

### GENERAL FARM SITUATION IMPROVED

As of March 1 farmers had not been able to make a great deal of progress toward preparation of land and seeding of their spring crops. While the past winter was one of the most severe in the history of the state, it proved beneficial in several respects. The heavy blanket of snow which covered practically all of the state during January provided a very good protective covering for the winter grain crop, in addition to building up a good reserve of sub-soil moisture. Field work is beginning to lag in some areas of the state but this situation has not become too serious yet. The seeding of tobacco beds is being held up in many areas. However, in southeastern counties many growers were able to get their seed beds planted before Christmas.

There are still a few scattered fields of corn, cotton and lespedeza seed from the 1947 crop which has not been gathered. These cases, however, are exceptions rather than a general situation, and the total quantity of any of these crops still remaining in the field is small in relation to the total production.

Livestock in general came through the winter in fair condition, although farmers had to draw heavily on their stocks of hay and grain. Supplemental feed requirements during the winter exhausted hay supplies, especially in the heavier livestock producing areas but feed grain supplies were sufficient in most areas.

North Carolina farmers now need a rather lengthy spell of open weather in order to catch up with their spring farming operations. Spring seeded crops should get off to a very favorable start this year as a result of the moisture supply that has accumulated through the winter months.

Most fruit trees apparently escaped with little damage from low temperatures in February.

### THE APPROACHING SMALL GRAIN SEASON





## FEBRUARY PRICE INDEX

The "All Farm Products" index of prices received by North Carolina farmers in mid-February dropped to 260 percent of the 1909-14 averages, or 13 points below the index for January. The index of 260 represents the lowest level of prices since February, 1947 and was caused by lower prices received by farmers for nearly all farm products. Indexes for all individual groups of farm products showed declines from last month except for miscellaneous products. The one point increase in the miscellaneous products index was caused primarily by slightly higher prices received for cowpeas, loose hay and sweet potatoes. The greatest drop of individual indexes occurred in poultry products. The poultry products index dropped 35 points below that of a month earlier, due primarily to a decline of 9 cents in the average price of eggs. The meat animal index decreased 13 points from the January level while the dairy products index decreased 5 points.

The ratio of prices paid by North Carolina farmers to prices received by United States farmers declined to a new low for the season. This ratio at 105 in February was 4 percent lower than a month earlier and 7 percent lower than a year ago.

## PRICES RECEIVED

Mid-February prices received by North Carolina farmers for many products declined from the preceding month. Prices received for practically all grains declined heavily. For example, wheat dropped over 40 cents per bushel while barley dropped 20 cents, and corn and rye each dropped 15 cents. Average prices received for all meat animals reflected from moderate to heavy losses. Egg prices dropped from 63 cents in January to 54 cents in February. Dairy products prices decreased only slightly.

Baled and loose hays, after having made slight losses in January, made moderate gains in February. Prices received for Irish potatoes were down 5 cents. The "all lespedeza" seed group increased in price as of February 15; however, among individual varieties, Kobe was down 20 cents per hundred pounds, while Common and Tennessee 76 remained unchanged. The prices of Korean and Sericea lespedeza seed advanced 70 cents and \$1.50 per hundred pounds respectively, which accounted for the increase in the price of all lespedeza seed.

*The measures of business activity give little reason for expecting the February price decline to turn into a recession. Industrial production in January held at the peacetime record of the previous 2 months.*

*Announcement has been made that prices for 1948 crop peanuts will be supported by the Commodity Credit Corporation at 90 percent of parity as of July 15, 1948*

## FEED PRICES PAID BY FARMERS FEBRUARY 15, 1948 WITH COMPARISONS

FEED PER HUNDRED WEIGHT	N. CAROLINA		U. S.	
	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948
-DOLLARS-				
BRAN.....	4.50	4.55	4.01	4.29
MIDDLINGS.....	4.75	4.80	4.21	4.55
CORN MEAL.....	6.00	6.20	5.06	5.60
COTTONSEED MEAL.....	4.70	4.60	5.26	5.46
MIXED DAIRY FEED:				
16% PROTEIN.....	4.60	4.60	4.63	4.76
18% PROTEIN.....	4.90	4.90	4.87	5.05
20% PROTEIN.....	5.00	5.00	5.03	5.24
LAYING MASH.....	6.00	6.00	5.55	5.74
SCRATCH FEED.....	5.70	5.70	5.34	5.69
TANKAGE.....	7.60	7.60	7.51	7.81

NORTH CAROLINA AND UNITED STATES INDEX NUMBERS  
(N. C. PRICES RECEIVED 1909-14 = 100 PERCENT)

COMMODITY	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1947	FEB. 15 1946	FEB. 15 1945
N. C. INDEX NUMBERS					
ALL FARM PRODUCTS..	260	273	248	200	179
TOBACCO.....	-	276	214	-	-
COTTON & COTTONSEED	263	276	261	187	166
GRAINS.....	226	252	192	166	158
MEAT ANIMALS.....	347	379	310	226	211
POULTRY.....	267	302	229	204	201
DAIRY PRODUCTS.....	239	244	223	178	173
MISCELLANEOUS.....	247	246	227	248	211
RATIO OF PRICES RECEIVED TO PAID*	105	109	112	112	104
U. S. INDEX NUMBERS					
PRICES RECEIVED....	279	307	262	207	199
PRICES PAID.....					
INTEREST, TAXES...	248	251	221	178	172
RATIO OF PRICES, RECEIVED TO PAID..	112	122	119	116	116

\*Ratio of N. C. prices received to U. S. paid

## COMPARISON OF U. S. PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS AND PARITY PRICE\*

COMMODITY	PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS		PARITY OR COMPARABLE PRICES		ACTUAL PRICES AS PERCENTAGE OF PARITY	
	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948	FEB. 15 1948	JAN. 15 1948
- DOLLARS -						
COTTON, PER LB.....	.3071	.3314	.3075	.3112	100	106
WHEAT, PER BU.....	2.12	2.81	2.19	2.22	97	127
CORN, PER BU.....	1.92	2.46	1.59	1.61	121	153
OATS, PER BU.....	1.04	1.27	.99	1.00	105	127
BARLEY, PER BU.....	1.72	2.06	1.54	1.55	112	133
RYE, PER BU.....	1.94	2.47	1.79	1.81	-	-
BEEF CATTLE, PER CWT.	19.50	21.50	13.40	13.60	146	158
HOGS, PER CWT.....	21.60	26.70	18.00	18.20	120	147
LAMBS, PER CWT.....	20.70	22.20	14.60	14.80	142	150
CHICKENS, PER LB.....	.26	.263	.283	.286	92	92
EGGS, PER DOZ.....	.45	.487	.490	.572	92	85
MILK, (WHSE) PER CWT..	4.98	5.09	4.08	4.26	122	119

\*Parity means a price for the farmers product which will give it an exchange value for things the farmer needs to buy equal to that in a specified base period (usually 1909-14).

## UNITED STATES PRICES

After rising steadily with only minor interruptions since June 1947, the index of prices received by farmers made one of the sharpest drops on record during the past month. It is necessary to refer back to 1920 and 1921 to find comparable decreases. On a percentage basis the decrease between February and March 1921, amounting to 12 percent, compares with the 9 percent drop this month. The slump in prices received was general with only a few commodities showing higher prices. Prices received by farmers for food and feed grains, oil-bearing crops, cotton, and meat animals were sharply lower. But on the other hand, rice, hay, oranges, potatoes, and sweet potatoes made moderate gains. At 279 percent of its 1909-14 average the index is 28 points below last month's record high of 307 but 17 points above the 262 of a year ago.

*Cash receipts of United States farmers were about 4.5 billion dollars for the first two months of 1948, about 10 percent more than in January-February last year.*

PRICES RECEIVED BY FARMERS FEBRUARY 15, 1948  
WITH COMPARISONS

COMMODITY	UNIT	NORTH CAROLINA		U. S.
		FEB. 15	JAN. 15	JAN. 15
		1948	1948	1948
-DOLLARS-				
CORN.....	BU.	1.95	2.10	1.92
WHEAT.....	BU.	2.55	2.95	2.12
OATS.....	BU.	1.20	1.31	1.04
BARLEY.....	BU.	1.75	1.95	1.72
RYE.....	BU.	2.55	2.70	1.94
SOYBEANS.....	BU.	2.90	3.20	2.97
COWPEAS.....	BU.	4.95	4.65	4.54
PEANUTS.....	LB.	.11	.11	.10
COTTON.....	LB.	.322	.336	.307
COTTONSEED.....	TON	78.00	85.00	88.60
WOOL.....	LB.	.47	.49	.41
HOGS.....	CWT.	21.60	24.70	21.60
BEEF CATTLE.....	CWT.	16.50	17.50	19.50
VEAL CALVES.....	CWT.	21.30	22.70	23.00
SHEEP.....	CWT.	9.80	9.60	9.25
LAMBS.....	CWT.	19.50	21.00	20.70
CHICKENS.....	LB.	.28	.29	.26
EGGS.....	DOZ.	.54	.63	.45
MILK: (WHSE).....	CWT.	5.65	5.70	4.98
RETAIL.....	QT.	.196	.20	.186
BUTTER.....	LB.	.61	.64	.694
BUTTERFAT.....	LB.	.62	.63	.849
HAY, ALL LOOSE...	TON	32.00	27.20	19.60
HAY, ALL BALED...	TON	34.20	33.30	-
POTATOES.....	BU.	2.00	2.05	1.93
SWEET POTATOES...	BU.	2.30	2.20	2.31
APPLES, COMM'L...	BU.	2.50	2.60	2.00
LESPEDeza SEED...	CWT.	15.90	15.70	13.90
KOREAN.....	CWT.	12.90	12.20	-
KOBE.....	CWT.	18.40	18.60	-
COMMON & TENN. 76	CWT.	24.00	24.00	-
SERICEA.....	CWT.	24.50	23.00	-



NORTH CAROLINA: AVERAGE NUMBER OF LAYERS, EGGS PER 100 LAYERS AND EGGS PRODUCED, BY MONTHS 1946<sup>1</sup> AND 1947<sup>1</sup>

MONTH	LAYERS <sup>2</sup>		EGGS PER 100 LAYERS		EGGS PRODUCED	
	1947	1946	1947	1946	1947	1946
	THOUSANDS		NUMBERS		MILLIONS	
JANUARY.....	8,330	8,588	812	679	68	58
FEBRUARY.....	8,330	8,591	991	974	83	84
MARCH.....	8,330	8,424	1,472	1,538	123	130
APRIL.....	8,072	7,924	1,644	1,653	133	131
MAY.....	7,642	7,424	1,631	1,606	125	119
JUNE.....	7,208	7,175	1,380	1,365	99	98
JULY.....	6,686	7,092	1,252	1,187	84	84
AUGUST.....	6,513	7,010	1,085	995	71	70
SEPTEMBER.....	6,775	7,259	870	789	59	57
OCTOBER.....	7,124	7,680	725	670	52	51
NOVEMBER.....	7,386	7,932	552	576	41	46
DECEMBER.....	7,559	8,170	564	639	43	52
ANNUAL TOTAL OR AVERAGE	7,496	7,772	-	-	981	980

1/ Revised. 2/ Average number on hand during month.

## FEBRUARY EGG PRODUCTION DOWN

Production of eggs on North Carolina farms during February totaled 73,000,000, a decrease of 12 percent from February, 1947. There were 10 percent fewer layers on farms during February of this year which accounted almost entirely for the decrease in egg production, since the rate of lay changed only slightly. The average rate of lay per 100 layers during the month was 977 compared with 991 during February, 1947. Production during February was about 35 percent above January, reflecting a much sharper seasonal increase than during the same period last year. Revised monthly estimates of egg production during 1947 and 1946 are shown in the above table.

## JANUARY HATCHINGS SHOW FURTHER DECLINE

The January commercial hatch totaled 2,026,000 chicks in North Carolina, compared with 2,111,000 produced during January a year earlier and the 10-year average of 2,288,000. Demand for baby chicks for flock replacements was somewhat slower than during the same period last year. Feed prices have been high in relation to egg prices and the critical shortage of fuel oil caused some delay in brooding chicks. Frequent rains and heavy snowfall during the month greatly slowed distribution of the January hatch to farmers and baby chicks began to accumulate at hatcheries toward the last of January.

National marketing quota for 1948 burley crop has been increased to 514 million pounds, up 40 million from previous announcement.

NORTH CAROLINA MONTHLY MILK PRODUCTIONS

MONTH	MILK COWS ON FARMS		MILK PROD. PER COW		TOTAL MILK PROD. ON FARMS		
	1946	1947	1946	1947	1936-45 Av.	1946	1947*
	-THOUSANDS-		-POUNDS-		-MILLION POUNDS-		
JANUARY....	362	359	295	300	101	107	108
FEBRUARY....	362	359	277	295	93	100	106
MARCH.....	362	359	328	331	107	119	119
APRIL.....	361	359	360	358	113	130	129
MAY.....	361	359	390	396	124	141	142
JUNE.....	361	359	389	405	127	140	145
JULY.....	361	359	399	408	132	144	146
AUGUST.....	361	358	396	406	132	143	145
SEPTEMBER..	360	358	364	385	120	131	138
OCTOBER....	360	358	343	360	114	123	129
NOVEMBER...	360	358	300	315	105	108	113
DECEMBER...	359	358	293	305	103	105	109
YEARLY TOTAL.....	361	359	4,130	4,260	1,371	1,491	1,529

\* Preliminary

## RECEIPTS FROM WOOL DECLINE

Cash receipts from the sale of wool amounted to \$85,000 in North Carolina during 1947. This represents a drop of 6 percent from the previous year and about 16 percent from 1945. Production of wool in the state totaled 180,000 pounds, an average of 5.3 lbs. per sheep shorn. It is estimated that 34,000 head of sheep were shorn during the year, compared with 37,000 in 1946. The average price per pound received was 47 cents in 1947 and 46 cents in 1946. Sheep numbers in North Carolina have declined from around 580,000 in the 1880's to only 39,000 on January 1, 1947.

## NUMBER OF LIVESTOCK ON N. C. FARMS

The number of livestock on North Carolina farms decreased from January 1, 1947 to January 1, 1948. Although value of livestock per head increased for most species during this period, there was a net loss of \$658,000 in the total value of the State's livestock inventories.

The number of mules on farms on January 1, 1948 estimated at 269,000, was the smallest January 1 inventory since 1923. The 92,000 horses on farms on January 1 compared with 95,000 a year ago, and the 10-year average of 82,000.

The farm inventory of cattle and calves on January 1, 1948 was placed at 677,000--the same as a year ago, but 4 percent more than the 10-year average of 654,000.

There were 1,191,000 hogs and pigs on farms January 1, 1948. This was 8 percent more than the 1,103,000 a year earlier, but about 1 percent less than the 10-year average of 1,198,000.

NUMBERS, VALUE PER HEAD, AND TOTAL VALUE OF LIVESTOCK ON FARMS JANUARY 1 NORTH CAROLINA

CLASS OF LIVESTOCK	NUMBER ON FARMS JAN. 1			VALUE PER HEAD			TOTAL VALUE		
	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948	AVERAGE 1937-46	1947	1948
	THOUSAND HEAD			DOLLARS			THOUSAND DOLLARS		
HORSES & COLTS.....	82	95	92	123.00	140.00	124.00	10,211	13,300	11,408
MULES & COLTS.....	296	277	269	190.00	229.00	219.00	56,130	63,433	58,911
ALL CATTLE & CALVES.....	654	677	677	44.10	81.70	85.90	29,639	55,311	58,154
COWS & HEIFERS 2 YRS.*....	366	376	376	57.80	106.00	109.00	21,527	39,856	40,984
SHEEP & LAMBS.....	53	39	35	7.44	14.20	16.00	386	554	560
HOGS INCLUDING PIGS.....	1,198	1,103	1,191	12.70	28.30	30.40	15,189	31,215	36,206
CHICKENS.....	11,501	12,111	10,532	.88	1.39	1.40	10,542	16,834	14,745
TURKEYS.....	58	56	50	3.48	5.80	6.60	193	325	330

\* FOR MILK



## FARM REPORT

Issued monthly through the  
Crop Reporting Service at Raleigh

Frank Parker  
Agricultural Statistician in charge

Representing the  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Bureau of Agricultural Economics  
W. P. Callander, Assistant Chief

and the  
NORTH CAROLINA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Division of Statistics  
D. S. Coltrane, Commissioner of Agriculture

FOR DISTRIBUTION PRIMARILY TO  
CROP REPORTERS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS

U. S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE LIBRARY,  
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

G

FEBRUARY, 1948

FARM REPORT

PAGE 4

## CURRENT TRUCK CROP SITUATION

### Lettuce - Early Spring

Growers of lettuce in North Carolina will plant about 1,300 acres this year, compared with 1,200 acres harvested in 1947. Based on conditions as of March 1, the estimated per acre yield will be about 100 western crates if no extreme in weather conditions develop.

Total acreage of lettuce in the early spring group of states including North Carolina, is estimated at 61,100 acres, 16.6 percent more than the harvested acreage in 1947.

### Strawberries - Mid Spring

Total acreage of strawberries for harvest in North Carolina this spring is estimated at 2,300 acres--about 4 percent less than the 2,400 acres harvested last year. Earlier intentions of growers to increase their acreage was not realized due to excessively wet soil conditions during the fall planting period which held back the preparation of fields as well as causing the loss of new plantings in many instances.

### Watermelons - Early Summer

As of March 1, growers of commercial watermelons in North Carolina expressed their intentions to plant about 10,000 acres to the crop this season. This is slightly above the 9,900 acres grown in 1947. It should be pointed out that actual plantings may fall below or exceed March intentions.

A current support price for eggs has not been announced but the USDA will support them so that prices for the year will average 90 percent of parity nationally

## FARM EMPLOYMENT DOWN

Farm activities during most of January were restricted by severe winter weather in most of the country except extreme southern areas. In the United States a total of 8,133,000 persons were working on farms on February 1. This was 2 percent below a year earlier and was largely due to adverse weather conditions. The decrease was almost entirely in the number of hired workers. Hired workers totaled 1,472,000--7 percent under the number employed a year ago.

## WEATHER SUMMARY FOR FEBRUARY, 1948

The month of February showed some slight improvement as compared with December and January. Temperatures during the month averaged near the season normal over most of the state. Total precipitation varied from less than 2 inches at Manteo to nearly 10 inches at Andrews while most of the rain occurred over the southwest mountain counties and Coastal Plain. Snowfall was exceptionally heavy over the Coastal Plain where 20 inches or more fell in some areas. In Raleigh the total snowfall for the month was 16 inches compared with a long time average of 2.4 inches. Near mid-February rain coupled with melting snow caused many Coastal Plain rivers to reach or go beyond flood stage.

